

It is with a certain satisfaction, therefore, that the Library can claim that it has not only established itself as a centre of empirical knowledge of African music through the large collection already housed in its Reference Library, but that it has kept up-to-date in technical matters and has already issued, or prepared for issue, a hundred Long Playing discs of good quality, recorded by its own field research unit.

The distances travelled by the field recording unit in order to obtain this number of recordings runs into several thousands of miles, and this is but a beginning of the work to be done if the Library is to prove an effective and continual source of authentic African recordings.

DISTRIBUTION OF RECORDINGS:

The name "AMA" (standing for "African Music/Musique Africaine") has been chosen for the Long Playing 'Sound of Africa' Series of 12" discs which the Library is now distributing to its Members. The first hundred discs include items recorded in over 40 African languages, from the following Territories

Belgian Congo, Ruanda/Urundi, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Moçambique, Swaziland, Basutoland and the Union of South Africa.

They contain many items of outstanding musical merit.

If adequate financial resources are available, the Library expects to be able to add no less than seven or eight hundred songs and tunes to its published collection each year, and, with each year's work accomplished, the whole publication of the Long Playing series of records will become increasingly valuable as sociological evidence of Africa's most developed talent music and song.

Such an output of recordings will only be possible if the larger industries of Africa, such as the Mines, the Municipalities and other employers of African labour, educational establishments and others, make good use of the unique collection of material now being made available through the work of the Library. Without the Library, the sole organisation established for this specific purpose, the only African music that would find its way onto published discs, would be the current semi-European dance tunes and erotic lyrics, which are the exclusive product of the towns, and a handful of religious items. The whole gamut of indigenous music which is one of Africa's most important assets both as a means of recreation and as an integrator of indigenous society, would be largely ignored were it not for the attention now being paid to this aspect of their ecology by the Library.

With the completion of this first five year period, the Council and Directorate of the Library wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the many hours of unselfish work and thought generously given by the Members of its Committee which has been international in its composition, including representatives of Belgian, British, French, Portuguese and South African Territories.

I.L.A.M. RECORDING IN SWAZILAND

(May 24th to April 3rd)

Through the kindness and invitation of the Resident Commissioner of Swaziland, Mr. Brian Marwick, the Field Recording Unit of the International Library of African Music was enabled to make a very brief tour of the Territory and record a representative selection of Swati songs and music which have since been published in the "AMA" "Sound of Africa" series of Long Playing records, Nos. TR-68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 and 75 (see pages 70 and 71). One of these items merited an Osborn Award (see page 74).

These items make an important and interesting addition to the present collection of the I.L.A.M. recordings.